

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 2, 22, 27, 31 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 3-21, 24, 26 and 30 are currently being amended.

Claim 34 is currently being added.

This amendment adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 3-21, 23-26, 28-30 and 32-34 are now pending in this application.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 3-9 and 13-19 contain allowable subject matter. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 3-9 and 13-19 have each been placed in independent form to include the features of their respective base claims and any respective intervening claims. Therefore, claims 3-9 and 13-19, as well as claims 10-12 and 20 which now depend either directly or indirectly on one of claims 3-9 and 13-19, are in allowable form.

Claim 21 has been amended to include the features of claim 22 and also to include the features recited in "objected to" claims 3-9 (by way of the last paragraph that recites "at least one of: a, b, c, ...). Claim 26 has been amended to include the features of claim 27 and also to include the features recited in "objected to" claims 3-9 (by way of the last paragraph that recites "at least one of: a, b, c, ...). Claim 30 has been amended to include the features of claim 31 and also to include the features recited in "objected to" claims 3-9 (by way of the last paragraph that recites "at least one of: a, b, c, ...). Therefore, claim 21, claims 23-26 (which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 21), claim 26, claims 28-29 (which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 26), claim 30, and claims 32-33 (which depend either directly or indirectly from claim

30) are now in allowable form, for the same reasons as set forth in the Office Action with respect to the "objected to" claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 10-12, 20-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,421,349 to Grover. Due to the cancellation of claims 1 and 2, and due to the amendments made to the other claims under rejection as discussed above so that those claims now include the features of the "objected to" claims, these rejections have been rendered moot.

New claim 34 has been added, whereby it recites the features of now-canceled claims 1 and 2, as well as features described on page 10, lines 13-18 of the specification. In particular, the route calculator determines at least two route candidates for each of the possible endpoint nodes such that the nodes and the links of the network that are assigned to the at least two route candidates are not shared among the at least two route candidates, to a greatest possible extent. Such features are not disclosed or suggested by Grover, which does not appear to try to compute candidate routes so that there is little if any overlap in nodes and links between them.

Therefore, for the reasons given above, and since no other objections or rejections are raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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